

At this time the world was extremely addicted to augury, that is the forming of omens from the cry and flight of birds, and one day *Xanthus* sent *Æsop* into the yard, and told him, that if he saw two crows he would have good luck after it; but if he saw only one, it was a bad omen, and would be followed by some misfortune. *Æsop* on this stepped out, and immediately returning, told his master he had seen two crows; upon which *Xanthus* went out himself, when finding but one, (for the other was flown away) he was exasperated at *Æsop* for making sport with him, and ordered him to be severely lashed; but while they were stripping him for the discipline, a person came to invite *Xanthus* to supper, on which *Æsop* cried, 'Where is the credit of your augury, when I that saw two crows am to be beaten like a dog, and you who saw but one are going to make merry with your friends?' *Xanthus* was immediately sensible of the justness of this remark, and therefore saved *Æsop* from the punishment that was going to be inflicted on him.

Soon after, *Æsop* had the address to obtain his liberty. The ring, which had the town-

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seal of *Samos* upon it, carried away by an Eber, vering with it in the bosom of a slave. The king, gined forboded some state, and in great council of their wise men, on this strange event, lost what to conclude desired some few days of deliberation; but being ever of giving a solution, he informed *Æsop*, who instantly desired a council, promising satisfaction.

The next morning he was freed from his uncle, when many of the court, conformity and uncouthness, soon convinced, by the fact that the faculties of his mind, for the defects of his body, listen to what he had said, them, that when he came to the question he was

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